



Office of the Inspector General

Matthew L. Cate, Inspector General

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Folsom State Prison headed in the right direction, according to state's Inspector General

SACRAMENTO—Although a detailed audit report identified several problems that need to be addressed at historic Folsom State Prison, the California Inspector General is satisfied that Warden Matthew Kramer is committed to improving the prison's operations. The report concluded that the warden has proven himself as both an effective leader and an advocate for inmate rehabilitation.

In the report released today, the Inspector General describes the findings of an audit of Folsom's operations. The report also summarizes an audit of Kramer's performance following his first year as warden.

The Office of the Inspector General performed the combined prison and warden audit under the authority provided by a recent amendment to the California Penal Code. The amendment requires the Inspector General to audit each prison at least once every four years and each prison warden one year after appointment.

"We found that Warden Kramer has been instrumental in committing Folsom to sound correctional practices," said Inspector General Matthew L. Cate. "Both the staff and inmates view him as an experienced administrator, and supervisors credit him for improving staff morale."

The staff and inmates also credit Kramer for supporting inmate rehabilitation programs. He has revised policies to ensure inmates can attend classes after their work shifts and take the GED test during lockdowns. Kramer also helped establish self-help programs and charity benefits.

While auditors looked broadly at practices throughout Folsom State Prison, they only identified a few safety issues as concerns. Specifically, cells in some housing units were not being searched as regularly as required, and many inmates were not required to actually stand for the “standing count.”

“Adherence to policy is critical in these instances,” said Inspector General Cate. “Fewer cell searches mean contraband and weapons can remain hidden, and allowing inmates to lie on their bunks during the count can prevent injured or ill inmates from being noticed.”

The warden has assured the Inspector General that Folsom’s staff has addressed these concerns. The Inspector General will review the prison’s progress in a follow-up report.

In the medical area, inexperienced nurses and a lack of qualified nurse supervisors were also a concern. Many of the new nurses had never worked in a prison, and their training and supervision was often inadequate. The federal court-appointed receiver for California’s prison medical care system made similar findings in a report released last year. The receiver’s office received a copy of the Inspector General’s report, and the receiver has indicated that his office is working to address the problem.

In all, the Inspector General made three audit findings and provided 11 recommendations to remedy certain safety issues. The entire audit report may be viewed and downloaded from the Office of the Inspector General’s Web site at <http://www.oig.ca.gov/>.

The Office of the Inspector General is an independent state agency responsible for oversight of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The office carries out its mission by conducting audits, special reviews, and investigations of the department to uncover criminal conduct, administrative wrongdoing, poor management practices, waste, fraud, and other abuses by staff, supervisors, and management. The Office of the Inspector General conducted this audit under the authority provided in California Penal Code section 6126.

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